

CLAIMS

- 2       1. A face shield assembly comprising:
  - 3           a protective element including an edge;
  - 4           a frame mountable to a support structure and including a top portion, a bottom portion
  - 5           and a side portion, the frame further including:
    - 6              a) an opening sized to fit the protective element, the opening defined by an upper inner
    - 7              edge, a lower inner edge, and side inner edges of the frame;
    - 8              b) a lip spaced from the upper, lower and side inner edges so as to form a channel
    - 9              constructed and arranged to receive a portion of the edge of the protective element; and
    - 10             wherein the frame lacks fasteners to secure the protective element, and the channel
    - 11           supports the protective element such that the protective element is removably attached to the
    - 12           frame so as to protect a user's face.
  - 1        2. The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the frame further comprises:
    - 2           c) an upper detent supported by the frame;
    - 3           d) a lower detent supported by the frame; and
    - 4           wherein the upper and lower detents aid in placement of the lens.
  - 1        3. The face shield assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper detent is supported on  
2           approximately the center of the upper inner edge of the frame, and the lower detent is supported  
3           on approximately the center of the lower inner edge of the frame.
  - 1        4. The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the lip includes one or more ridges that  
2           project into the channel.
  - 1        5. The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the protective element is a lens.
  - 1        6. The face shield assembly of claim 5, wherein the lens has a continuous, planar surface.

1       7.     The face shield assembly of claim 5, wherein the lens has a continuous outer edge.

2       8.     The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the frame is formed as a single, unitary  
3     member.

1       9.     The face shield assembly of claim 1, wherein the opening extends from an approximate  
2     centerline of the face shield toward the edges of the face shield such that the frame does not  
3     obstruct the peripheral vision of the user.

1       10.    The face shield assembly of claim 1, further comprising a support structure constructed  
2     and arranged to support the frame and adapted be worn by a user.

1       11.    The face shield assembly of claim 10, wherein the support structure includes a mounting  
2     member comprising a fixed mounting element supported on an inner surface of each side portion  
3     of the frame, and a corresponding, adjustable mounting element supported on opposite sides of  
4     the support structure.

1       12.    The face shield assembly of claim 11, wherein the mounting member includes a pin that  
2     is selectively engageable with at least two notches in order to restrain the face shield in one of an  
3     upper or lower position.

1       13.    The face shield assembly of claim 12, wherein the pin is supported on the fixed mounting  
2     element and the at least two notches are formed in the adjustable mounting element.

1       14.    The face shield assembly of claim 12, further comprising a pair of stops for limiting  
2     movement of the face shield frame.

1       15.    The face shield assembly of claim 11, wherein the mounting member further comprising  
2     a pair of mounting holes constructed and arranged to allow the user to adjust the spacing of the  
3     lens relative to the user's face.

1       16. In a face shield assembly for protecting the eyes and face of a user including a frame  
2 mounted to a support structure, the improvement comprising:

3              a mounting member including a fixed mounting element supported on an inner surface of  
4 each side portion of the frame, a corresponding, adjustable mounting element supported on  
5 opposite sides of the support structure; a pin that is selectively engageable with at least two  
6 notches in order to restrain the face shield in one of an upper or lower position; and a pair of  
7 mounting holes constructed and arranged to allow the user to adjust the spacing of the lens  
8 relative to the user's face

1       17. The improvement of claim 16, wherein the pin is supported on the fixed mounting  
2 element and the at least two notches are formed in the adjustable mounting element.

1       18. The improvement of claim 16, further comprising a pair of stops for limiting movement  
2 of the face shield frame.